

# News Release

.....  
5210 Chairman's Court, Suite 2B  
Frederick, MD 21703  
301.668.7230  
[www.dieselforum.org](http://www.dieselforum.org)

**MEDIA CONTACTS:** *Kristen Gifford, Public Affairs Program Manager, (301) 643-7989*  
*Allen Schaeffer, Executive Director, (301) 668-7230*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 28, 2004**

## **NEW REPORT FINDS DIESEL SMOKE TESTING PROGRAMS EFFECTIVE** **Diesel Technology Forum Calls on More States to Adopt Programs**

Frederick, MD – Cost-effective diesel smoke emissions testing programs that identify, test and compel repairs in diesel trucks and buses are helping states throughout the country get gross emitters off the road. The report, released today by the Diesel Technology Forum (DTF), evaluates the benefits and effectiveness of 16 state and two Canadian diesel vehicle inspection programs.

“These cost-effective programs are win-win—better for the environment because they reduce excess emissions, and better for the operators, since visible smoke emissions means unburned fuel (and dollars) going out the smokestack. States without these programs are missing cost-effective opportunities for reducing emissions and getting gross emitters off the road. Roadside smoke testing programs do not target well-maintained trucks and buses, instead focus on the problem areas -- poorly maintained vehicles. Fleet operators not doing their fair share for clean air can and should be targeted to clean up their engines,” stated Allen Schaeffer, executive director of DTF.

Substantial progress has been made over the last decade in reducing emissions from heavy-duty diesel engines used in trucks and buses. Today's highway truck or bus engine is 8 times lower in emissions of particulates and nitrogen oxides than the same engine that is 12 years old. Diesel engines have been free of visible smoke for 10 years. However, some fraction of vehicles on the road today are improperly maintained or maladjusted and emit excessive smoke and other pollutants. In order to identify, test and repair such vehicles, heavy-duty diesel vehicle emission inspection programs have been initiated in a number of locations in the United States and Canada. “*State Diesel Emission Inspection Programs: Trends and Outcomes*” is the first effort to estimate the emission benefits of diesel inspection programs and compare available data across programs.

Other key findings of the report:

- Smoke inspection programs are effective in reducing both the number of very smoky vehicles and the average smoke opacity from the vehicles.
- Approximately 5-7 percent of pre-1998 vehicles have smoke emissions that exceed standards.
- 1998 and newer vehicles have significantly lower smoke emissions than pre-1998 vehicles partly due to improved engine technology.

**NEWS**

***Diesel Power Critical to California Economy***

***Page 2***

- The EPA-endorsed test procedure – the snap acceleration test (SAE J1667) remains an effective test procedure.

To view or download a copy of the complete report, and other tools and information on state diesel emissions inspection programs, go to [www.dieselforum.org](http://www.dieselforum.org).

The report was compiled for the Diesel Technology Forum by Energy and Environmental Analysis, Inc. of Arlington, VA.

###

*The Diesel Technology Forum represents engine makers, fuel producers and emissions control manufacturers. It brings together the diesel industry, the broad diesel user community, civic and public interest leaders, government regulators, academics, scientists, the petroleum industry, and public health researches, to encourage the exchange of information, ideas, scientific findings, and points-of-view to current and future uses of diesel power technology. For more information about the Forum visit our web site at [www.dieselforum.org](http://www.dieselforum.org).*